

Dawes County Complex Fire Update

Monday, July 31, 2006 - 8:00 A.M.

Joint Information Center: 308-432-6440

On the Web at: www.inciweb.org

Total Acres: 26,300

Containment: 25 percent

Location: South and southwest of Chadron, NE

Resources: 9 20-person crews, 40 engines, 2 dozers, 3 water tenders (mixture of Chadron volunteer fire departments and federal resources)

Air support available: 4 helicopters, 3 heavy airtankers

Total personnel: 440 (does not include volunteer firefighter departments that are also on scene)

A passing front may bring strong, gusty winds from the northwest on Monday, which has caused the County Sheriff and Incident Management Team to order some additional temporary evacuations on the south sides of both the Roberts and Spotted Tail Fires.

Small smoke columns may be visible from Chadron this morning as small piles of wood chips on "C" hill behind the college continue to burn out.

Spotted Tail Fire: Containment operations continue on this 19,000-acre fire. Firefighters are continuing with burnout operations between roads and the active fire areas. Primary concerns are on the southeast and southwest sides of the fire.

Roberts Tract Fire: This 9,000-acre fire continues to be active on the southwest side in steep, rugged terrain. Firefighters are continuing to build line and conduct burnouts.

Deadhorse Fire: The fire is contained at 300 acres. Firefighters continue with mop-up operations.

Road Closures:

- 385 south of Chadron to 37 Mile Corner east of Hemingford.
- Highway 20 from Fort Robison to Lusk, Wyoming.
- Highway 29 from Harrison south to Mitchell, Nebraska.

Want to Help?

A relief fund has been established to help impacted residents and local fire departments of Dawes and Sioux Counties.

Financial donations may be sent to:

- any financial institution in Dawes or Sioux County, or
- Dawes-Sioux Fire Fund,
PO Box 1125, Chadron, NE
69337